

Remarks

The present application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/070,521 filed April 29, 1998 (the "parent application"), which is a division of Application Serial No. 08/620,374 filed March 22, 1996 (the "grandparent application"), which is a continuation in part of Application Serial No. 08/552,222 filed November 2, 1995, which is a continuation in part of Application Serial No. 08/498,900 filed July 6, 1995, which is a continuation in part of Application Serial No. 08/234,644 filed April 28, 1994.

The Examiner rejected claims 158-183 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Levine (U.S. 6,792,082). Levine issued from an application based on a provisional application filed on September 11, 1998. Thus, the effective filing date of Levine, at best, is September 11, 1998 which is, however, after the effective filing date of the present application which, at least, is as early as March 22, 1996 (the filing date of the grandparent application). This being so, Levine cannot be prior art with respect to the present application under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). As such, it is respectfully requested that the above rejection, and the finality of the Action be withdrawn, and that Levine be removed from the record as a prior art reference.

It is also respectfully requested that Gibilisco (U.S. 6,104,786) which was cited but not relied upon be removed from the record because it is not a prior art reference for similar reasons.

Applicants have added claims 184-201, which are drawn to different aspects of the invention and believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, claims 158-201 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claim is requested and allowance of the

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application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

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